

The Official Action rejects claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13-24, 26 and 28-43 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,165,876 to Yamazaki et al. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because the Official Action has not established an anticipation rejection.

As stated in MPEP § 2131, to establish an anticipation rejection, each and every element as set forth in the claim must be described either expressly or inherently in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

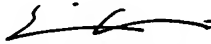
The Applicants respectfully submit that an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present application. Each of the independent claims recites removing a surface portion of a crystalline semiconductor layer. The Applicants respectfully submit that Yamazaki '876 does not teach the above-referenced features of the present invention, either explicitly or inherently.

The Official Action generally asserts that Yamazaki '876 teaches all of the features of independent claims 1, 3, 13, 19, 28 and 29 (pages 2-3, Paper No. 1005) and that the feature "removing a surface portion of the crystalline semiconductor layer" is disclosed in Figure 2C and column 15, lines 20-30, of Yamazaki '876. The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the above assertions. The cited portion of Yamazaki '876 appears to teach ion doping of an n-type dopant while heating a substrate. Also, other portions of Yamazaki '876 do not disclose removing a surface portion of a crystalline semiconductor layer, either explicitly or inherently.

Since Yamazaki '876 does not teach all the elements of the independent claims, either explicitly or inherently, an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are in order and respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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